

Message Text

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APPROVED BY S/PRS - FREDERICK Z. BROWN

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER EDITORIAL SEPT. 16, 1976

NO. 13

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER EDITORIAL OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, ENTITLED "ODDS ARE LONG IN AFRTCA, BUT EFFORT MUST BE MADE."

"THE COMMUNIQUE OUT OF THE FOUR-AND-A-HALF HOUR MEETING OF RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID THAT THE TWO HAD 'A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.'

"THAT, IN THE LANGUAGE OF DIPLOMACY, MEANS THAT THEY DIS-AGREED. MR. VORSTER WAS REPORTING TO THE RHODESIAN LEADER ON HIS OWN RECENT MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, WHO ON THE SAME DAY AS THE VORSTER-SMITH MEETING ARRIVED IN TANZANIA TO BEGIN AN INTRICATE PEACE-MAKING MISSION IN AFRICA. WHAT MR. VORSTER SAID AFTER HIS MEETING WITH MR. KISSINGER IS ALSO WORTH NOTING. 'WE HAD,' HE DE-UNCLASSIFIED

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CLARED, 'FREE AND FRANK EXCHANGES.'

"MR. VORSTER, THOUGH, IS AT LEAST REALISTIC ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT RHODESIA CANNOT GO ON THE WAY IT HAS BEEN GOING, AND TO URGE THE SMITH REGIME TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE DEMAND, BY RHODESIAN BLACKS AND BY THE BLACK GOVERNMENTS AROUND THAT LAND-LOCKED COUNTRY, FOR MAJORITY RULE.

"WHETHER MR. SMITH WILL RECOGNIZE THE INEVITABLE IS ANOTHER MATTER. IN A SPEECH BEFORE LEAVING TO MEET THE SOUTH AFRICAN, MR. SMITH SCOFFED AT SUCH 'POLITICAL GIMMICKS' AS 'ONE-MAN, ONE VOTE OR MAJORITY RULE.'

"MEANWHILE, MR. VORSTER HAS HIS OWN PROBLEMS WITH THE RISING TIDE OF BLACK PROTEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA'S SYSTEM OF APARTHEID. THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SOME CONCESSIONS TO THE BLACK MAJORITY, BUT NOT ENOUGH. IT HAS ALSO MADE CONCESSIONS -- BUT NOT ENOUGH -- TO BLACK INSISTENCE ON PROMPT INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA, THE SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN TERRITORY WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HOLDS UNDER A MANDATE OF THE OLD LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

"NAMIBIA IS, NEVERTHELESS, COMPARATIVELY THE EASIEST PROBLEM ON MR. KISSINGER'S AGENDA, SINCE PRETORIA AT LEAST ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE. IF HE CAN GET RESULTS THERE, HE MAY BE ABLE TO GET UP MOMENTUM TO HELP RESOLVE OTHER CONFLICTS.

"SO HE HOPES, BUT THE ODDS ARE LONG AGAINST HIM. BLACK NATIONALISTS IN AFRICA ARE AS SUSPICIOUS OF HIS MOTIVES AS ARE THE WHITES. BEFORE MR. KISSINGER ARRIVED, A LEADER OF THE BLACK LIBERATION GROUP CALLED THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION PREDICTED THAT HIS MISSION WAS 'BOUND TO FAIL.' ON ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA, HE WAS GREETED BY DEMONSTRATORS CHANTING, 'GO HOME KISSINGER.' AND BACK HOME, CONSERVATIVES OF THE REAGAN WING OF THE GOP SUSPECT MR. KISSINGER IS TRYING TO SELL OUT THE WHITE MAN IN AFRICA.

"IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MR. KISSINGER MAY SEEM TO RESEMBLE VOLTAIRE'S NAIVE HERO, CANDIDE, WHO WAS TORTURED, ENSLAVED AND OTHERWISE ILL TREATED DURING HIS TRAVELS OVER THE WORLD,
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AND ONE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO COMMEND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE MORAL OF THE TALE: 'LET US CULTIVATE OUR GARDEN.'

"THAT IS NOT SUCH BAD ADVICE, IN MANY WAYS, BUT THE TROUBLE IS THAT IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD ONE CANNOT CULTIVATE ONE'S GARDEN SAFELY IF NEIGHBORING GARDENS ARE IN TURMOIL. IF SOUTHERN AFRICA EXPLODES, THE FALL-OUT WOULD BE WORLD-WIDE. SURELY IT IS BETTER TO FAIL IN AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK,

IF IT COMES TO THAT, THAN NOT TO TRY AT ALL."

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